

THE SNOB PARTY

By J. F. Hartigan

"Well, why don't you make your friends acquainted, then?" asked Mrs. Plunkett.

"My dear mother-in-law, I assure you I should be perfectly willing," answered John Stevens, "but you see my wife won't let me. People in our position have to live a double existence."

"Nonsense, John," interposed Lydia Stevens, pettishly. "In New York one does as New York, that's all. The idea of introducing Millie Gray to the Lentfields!"

"But why can't it be done?" asked her mother. "Aren't folks just as neighborly in New York as at home?"

"Well, say! That's a good one!" exclaimed John. "You don't understand, mother-in-law. Now it's this way. Millie and her folks are old friends, and when we first came to New York we were thick enough together. But when I made some money my wife got acquainted with another set, rich people, my dear lady, who wouldn't even condescend to look once at Millie because she's a stenographer. Why, Bertram Lentfield comes into a cool million at 25, apart from what his father will leave him."

"Well," said the old lady, "all I can say is, folks are folks, wherever you find 'em. And it's my belief that Bertram and Millie would be tickled to death with each other."

"But Bertram's always in love anyway," snapped her daughter.

"By George, yes," shouted John. "Just now he's worrying his mother's life out for fear he will be entangled with a fast woman. She came to me in tears about it. You see, she doesn't know we have common friends like the Grays, and she thinks we are in her set."

"So we are, John," said his wife angrily.

"Well, anyway, she came into my law office—I suppose I can repeat what's common gossip. It appears that Bertram has to consult another law firm a good deal, and while he was there he had their stenographer do some work for him. Took her out to supper afterward and seems bent on marrying her."

"How do you know that part, John?" inquired Lydia.

"His mother told me. She said there was a fuss at home when Ber-



The Girl Had Never Looked So Sweet, John Thought

tram wanted to bring the girl there for a visit. Old Lentfield raved and fumed and threatened to cut him off."

"But she may be respectable, John," protested Mrs. Plunkett.

"May be," he admitted. "But any-